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# California State Senate

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## SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY AND STATE LEGISLATION

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SENATOR  
**LIZ FIGUEROA**  
CHAIR

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** Friday, October 10, 2003

**TO:** Legislative Staff

**FROM:** Senator Liz Figueroa, Chair

**RE:** *Luncheon Briefing: Does California Need Increased Corporate Disclosure?*

On October 16<sup>th</sup> the California Senate Select Committee on International Trade Policy and State Legislation will co-sponsor, in coordination with the Natural Heritage Institute, UC Berkeley International Studies Institute, and UC Berkeley Center for Human Rights, a luncheon discussion of the California Right to Know Campaign, and the need for increased corporate disclosure of labor, human rights and environmental practices both here and abroad.

While companies operating within California are required to conform to our environmental, labor and human rights standards, California companies operating abroad are not required to disclose information about their practices in these areas.

This luncheon discussion will focus on the following questions: Could public distrust of U.S. companies be improved by increasing labor and environmental disclosure requirements of California corporations operating abroad? Could increased reporting requirements reduce the amount of child labor and sweatshop abuses, and work to promote the development of international labor standards, thus reducing company incentives to relocate internationally, while protecting California's workforce and labor standards?

I encourage all legislative staff to attend this informative briefing, which will take place on ***Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. in room 112 of the State Capitol. Lunch will be provided.*** Speakers will include Steve Blackledge, California Public Interest Group; Oronto Douglas, Environmental Rights Action (Nigeria); Geoffrey Ashton, the Calvert Group Ltd.; Tim Little, The Rose Foundation; Katie Quan, UC Berkeley's Henning Center for Labor Relations; and Dan Jacobson, Environment California.

For additional information, or to RSVP, contact *Anna Blackshaw* at 916.322.8616 [anne.blackshaw@sen.ca.gov](mailto:anne.blackshaw@sen.ca.gov) or *Laura Metune* at 916.445.3674 [laura.metune@sen.ca.gov](mailto:laura.metune@sen.ca.gov).